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amelioration of agricultural crops. In presenting this scientific discussion of plant breeding, Professor deVries has given us one of the most valuable contributions to botanical science in recent years.

CARLTON C. CURTIS.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Heinrich Hasselbring, assistant in botany in the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant botanist at the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station, at Santiago de las Vegas.

Dr. C. B. Robinson, assistant curator, New York Botanical Garden, spent two or three weeks of his summer vacation in making collections at the Bay of Seven Islands, Saguenay, Quebec.

Mr. Elmer D. Merrill, botanist of the Bureau of Science of the Government of the Philippine Islands, has recently devoted a week to studies in the herbarium and library of the New York Botanical Garden.

Mr. Allen H. Curtiss, well known as a collector and student of the plants of the southern United States and of the West Indies, died in Jacksonville, Florida, on September 1, in the sixty-third year of his age.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton are spending the month of September on the island of Jamaica. It is expected that the southwestern part of the island, where comparatively little botanical collecting has been done, will receive a large share of their attention at this time.

A "readership" in forestry has been established in Cambridge University and the appointment to the new position has been awarded to Dr. Augustine Henry, who is especially well known to botanists by his collections in China and Formosa. Dr. Henry visited the United States and Canada last autumn for the purpose, chiefly, of studying forestry conditions.

Dr. Carl Skottsberg, who was a member of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901-'03 and has since been engaged in studying his collections of the marine vegetation of that region,

will lead a new scientific expedition to the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego. It is planned to leave Göteborg during the present month and to return to Sweden in April or May, 1909.

Dr. H. H. Rusby, dean of the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University and president of the Torrey Botanical Club, was elected second vice-president of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the meeting held in New York City during the first week in September. Dr. Rusby has recently received an appointment as an official expert in drug products to the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The interesting and important paper entitled "Contributions to the History of American Geology" published last year by Dr. George P. Merrill, head curator of geology, U. S. National Museum, in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1904, includes in an appendix, among biographical sketches of the principal workers in American geology, brief accounts of the lives of many who contributed also to the early progress of botany in America. Among such pioneers, sketches are given of Lewis C. Beck, W. H. Brewer, Samuel B. Buckley, Chester Dewey, Amos Eaton, Ebenzer Emmons, George Engelmann, F. V. Hayden, Edward Hitchcock, Joseph LeConte, Leo Lesquerieux, Elisha Mitchell, Samuel Latham Mitchill, J. S. Newberry, Robert Peter, J. E. Teschemacher, and F. A. Wislizenus.

An appreciative article on "The Botanical Garden, New York," containing a considerable amount of rather naïve misinformation, is published in *The Gardener's Chronicle* of London for August 24, 1907, *Die Gartenwelt* of July 20 being made responsible for the particulars. The article begins as follows:

"An idea of the enormous growth of New York, the second largest city in the world, with its 4,000,000 of inhabitants is obtained from the Bronx suburb, which is readily reached by two elevated railways and lies to the north of the city. This terrain, 20 years ago, was as difficult to reach as Philadelphia, and possessed a population of about 30,000 persons, distributed over an area of 917 square miles.* There were but few good houses,

* [The area of the Borough of the Bronx is given in the World Almanac as 40.65 square miles and its population in 1880 as 51,980, in 1890 as 88,908. — ED.]

and these chiefly summer villas scattered about in a wilderness of luxuriant-growing deciduous trees. The rest were huts inhabited chiefly by criminals. To-day, the Bronx is one of the finest parts of New York, and the inhabitants number 400,000. Its most noteworthy feature is Bronx Park, which nature and art have united in forming into a charming idyll for the lover of nature."

Among the botanical visitors in New York City during the past summer, in addition to those already noted in TORREYA, may be mentioned the following : W. H. Lipsky, St. Petersburg ; Professor F. L. Stevens, North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College, West Raleigh, N. C.; Professor M. A. Barber, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas ; Professor F. E. Lloyd, Mazapil, Zacatecas, Mexico ; Professor William L. Bray, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.; Professor Douglas H. Campbell, Stanford University, California ; Mr. William R. Maxon, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Professor T. D. A. Cockerell, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado ; Dr. H. N. Whitford, Forestry Bureau, Manila, P. I.; Dr. Clifton D. Howe, Biltmore Forest School, Biltmore, North Carolina ; Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C.; Professor D. S. Johnson, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Professor John L. Sheldon, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.; Dr. J. N. Rose, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; and Mr. H. H. York, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.